

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

S. 200th groundbreaking

The S. 200th Link light rail extension construction is officially underway. Groundbreaking for the segment took place in late April with U.S. Senator Patty Murray, along with several other dignitaries, in attendance.

The S. 200th project extends light rail from Sea-Tac Airport to the new Angle Lake Station at S. 200th in the City of SeaTac. The 1.6-mile elevated guideway and station is scheduled to open in late 2016, at the same time as University Link. Funding partners include a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant, the Federal Transit Administration, Puget Sound Regional Council, and the state Department of Transportation.

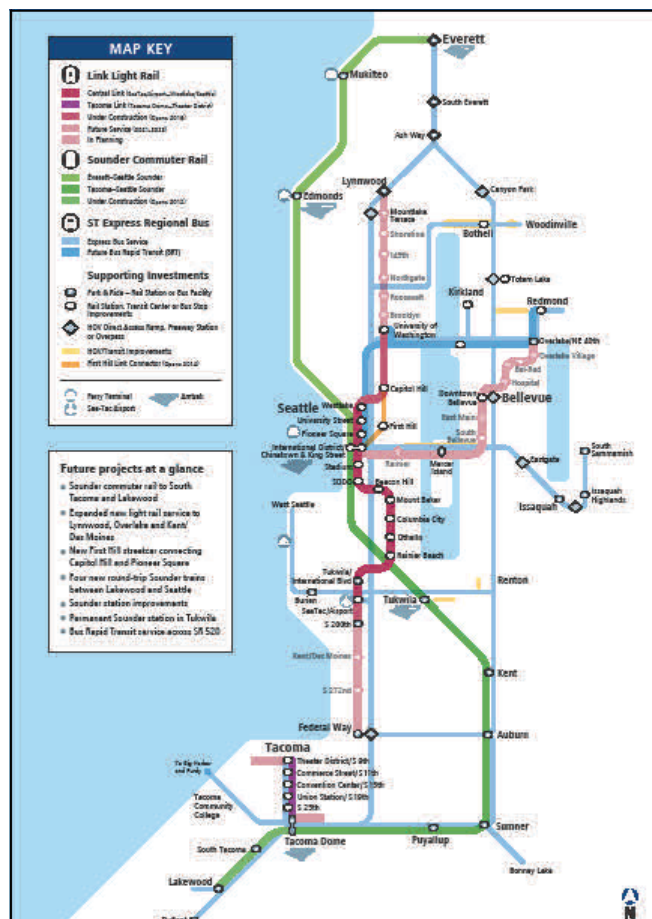
Aaron Reardon leaves Board

Aaron Reardon, former Snohomish County Executive and Sound Transit Board Chair, resigned from the Board in May.

Mr. Reardon joined the Sound Transit Board in 2004 and was chair for two years starting in 2010, and then became a Board vice chair. Mr. Reardon was instrumental in helping negotiate the Sound Transit 2 expansion program in 2008 and was a big supporter of the plan in Snohomish County and throughout the region. The Board named Boardmember Paul Roberts, Everett City Councilmember, as the vice chair.

Tukwila Sounder station groundbreaking

Sound Transit broke ground on the permanent Tukwila Sounder station in late June. The station will replace the existing temporary station. When construction is completed next year, Sounder riders will enjoy a revamped facility that includes twice the amount of parking, better transit connections, artwork, improved permanent shelters and more walking and bicycle pathways. Construction will not reduce train service or commuter parking at the station.



Current and future transit improvements

Tacoma Link corridor chosen

The Sound Transit Board took a big step forward in the future expansion of Tacoma Link by selecting a corridor to take into environmental review. The decision followed extensive community involvement from an active group of stakeholders and several public open houses and meetings. Sound Transit received more than 800 public comments throughout the process.

The route chosen by the Board connects from Tacoma Link's existing Theater District Station north through the Stadium Mixed Use Center then southwest to Martin Luther King Jr. Way and south through the Martin Luther King Jr. Mixed Use Center and terminating near South 19th Street. The route, which is about 2.3 miles long, was endorsed by the Tacoma City Council.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues *continued . . .*

Nine new Sounder cars

Sound Transit is gearing up for additional Sounder service between Lakewood and Seattle. As part of that preparation, the Sound Transit Board approved a contract to buy nine Sounder passenger cab cars. The cars will be used for additional Sounder runs scheduled for the south line.

The contract, with Bombardier Transportation, Inc. is for up to \$32.8 million, which includes a 5 percent contingency. The cab cars will be delivered in 2016.

Expansion on the south line begins in September 2013 with an additional round trip between Lakewood and Seattle. That will make 10 weekday trips on the south line. Further expansion will take place in 2016, when a peak direction round trip and a reverse direction round trip will be added. A final round trip will start in 2017, completing the Sounder service expansion approved by voters in 2008. The current Sounder fleet includes 14 locomotives, 40 coaches and 18 cab cars.

Customer satisfaction survey

For the last nine years, Sound Transit has asked its riders about the agency's train and bus service and how it can be improved.

The latest survey, taken from 1,552 customer interviews last winter, shows that 46 percent of the respondents gave Sound Transit an "A" grade, 41 percent a "B" grade and 11 percent a "C." These upper-end grades are consistent over the nine years of the survey and put the agency at the top compared to a sampling of other transit agencies in North America.

The survey, conducted by EMC Research of Seattle, shows that the main reasons for Sound Transit's high marks is reliable and prompt service, while the negatives are for buses or trains running late.

Undriver license

Sound Transit is now an Official Licensing Partner with Undriving, a local non-profit founded in 2007, that encourages people to drive less. Under the program, participants pledge to reduce their car use in the next 30 days, choose fun props for their license photo and get their personalized license. Undriving has licensed over 10,000 people.

Throughout the summer, Sound Transit's Undriver Licensing station will be at fairs and festivals where riders can make their pledge and receive their own Undriver License.